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LEISTON-cum-SIZEWELL URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL  
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ANNUAL REPORT  
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of the



MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH  
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FOR THE YEAR ENDING  
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MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

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To: The Chairman and Members of the Leiston-cum-Sizewell  
Urban District Council.

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I have the honour to present the Annual Report of  
the Medical Officer of Health for the year 1953.

During 1953 the estimated population showed a slight increase on that for 1952. There were 4 fewer deaths and 13 more births. There was one death due to Toxaemia of pregnancy, thereby emphasising the need for maintaining the various services concerned with ante-natal care.

Amongst the satisfactory aspects of the report special mention should be made of the fact that one of the other "vulnerable" groups of the population i.e. the infants under 1 year of age were clear of any fatality.

During the first three months of the year, there was a large outbreak of measles in the Urban District. For some years the incidence of measles had been low. This meant that there were, by the end of 1952, a large number of children who had never had measles. In the Autumn of 1952 there was a high incidence of the disease in the large towns. Contact with children from these towns by Leiston children was certain to produce an outbreak of measles in this town. The best policy, under such circumstances, is to concentrate on the youngest children and to try, by separation, to "put off" the attack of measles until as late an age as possible.

Following measles, for similar reasons, there was a somewhat higher incidence of whooping cough than in the immediately preceding years.

There was no outbreak of any other serious infectious disease. It was hoped to be able to provide, as in previous years, a statistical statement on the progress of the County Council's Diphtheria Immunisation scheme. The information was not to hand at the time of writing this report. However, from one's impressions at the Infant Welfare Centre it may be stated that most parents in this district still realise the importance of every child being immunised against diphtheria before the age of 1 year.



It will be noted that further progress was made during the year in increasing the number of properties with a piped supply of mains water. In addition, the gross number of inhabited houses is gradually increasing.

The sections in this report on milk, water, meat inspection, condemned food, other foods, housing, pail-closets, prevention of damage by pests and factories are largely covered by the Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector and have been compiled by Miss. C. Hobson to whom I am indebted.

I should like to take this opportunity in thanking the Council and in particular the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee and the Council's staff for their great co-operation and courtesy.

I have the honour to be  
Your obedient servant

J.B. Kershaw,

Medical Officer of Health.





GENERAL STATISTICS

Area (in acres)	4,466	(4,466)
Registrar General's Estimate of Population (June 1953)	4,072	(4,048)
Number of Inhabited Houses	1,423	(1,382)
Rateable Value	£22,000	(£21,429)
Product of Penny Rate	£87	(84)

1952 Figures in Parenthesis.

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## VITAL STATISTICS

	MALES	FEMALES	TOTAL
Live Births (Illegitimate Births)	29 (2)	26 (1)	55 (3)

Birth Rate per 1,000 Population = 13.5  
 Rate per 1,000 Population  
     (England & Wales) = 15.5  
 Comparability Factor = 1.21

	MALES	FEMALES	TOTAL
Stillbirths (Legitimate) (Illegitimate)	1 (-)	1 (-)	2 (-)

Rate per 1,000 Live Births = 36.3  
 Rate per 1,000 Population = .49  
 Rate per 1,000 Population  
     (England & Wales) = .35

### Maternal Mortality

One death occurred due to Toxaemia of pregnancy.

### INFANTILE MORTALITY

Deaths of infants under one year of age. NIL  
 Deaths of infants under 1 year per 1,000 live  
 births in England and Wales. 26.8



DEATHSMALESFEMALESTOTAL

25

28

53

Death Rate per 1,000 population  
 England and Wales  
 Comparability Factor

= 13.0  
 = 11.4  
 = 0.74

Causes of Deaths

	Males	Females	Total
Tuberculosis, respiratory.	-	-	-
Tuberculosis, other.	1	-	1
Malignant disease of stomach.	4	1	5
Malignant disease of lung.	-	-	-
Other malignant disease.	2	2	4
Diabetes.	-	1	1
Leukaemia.	1	-	1
Vascular lesions of the nervous system.	5	3	8
Coronary heart disease.	4	1	5
Other heart disease.	4	10	14
Other circulatory disease.	2	1	3
Influenza.	1	-	1
Pneumonia.	-	1	1
Pregnancy, childbirth.	-	1	1
Congenital malformations.	-	1	1
Other defined and ill-defined diseases.	-	5	5
Motor vehicle accidents.	1	-	1
All other accidents.	-	1	1
	25	28	53
(1952)	(34)	(23)	(57)



## INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

The following confirmed cases of infectious disease were notified during the year:-

	Males	Females	Total
Scarlet fever.	3	1	4
Whooping cough.	24	23	47
Acute poliomyelitis.	-	-	-
Measles.	107	74	181
Erysipelas.	2	-	2

No cases of food poisoning were notified during 1953.

## TUBERCULOSIS

	MALES		FEMALES		TOTAL
	Pulm-onary	Non-pulm.	Pulm-onary	Non-pulm.	
Number of cases on register at beginning of year.	10	1	7	4	22
Number of cases added during the year.	2	1	1	1	5
Number removed during the year.	-	1	-	1	2
Number of cases on register at end of the year.	12	1	8	4	25

### Additions to the register

New notifications  
Inward transfers.

= 4  
= 1  
5

### Removals from register.

Recovered.  
Found to be non-tuberculous.

= 1  
= 1  
2





NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT. 1948.

It was not found necessary to take any action under Section 47 of this Act. This Section relates to the removal to an institution of persons in need of care and attention who are unwilling to go but for whom it is considered that it is in their best interests that they should be cared for in this way.

One case was referred to the Medical Officer of Health in which an elderly married couple were living alone in insanitary conditions. Relatives were traced and, with the help of these persons and the Sanitary Inspector the premises were cleaned and renovated. Ultimately, the elderly lady was admitted to hospital, where she died and her husband moved to the care of his own relatives.

It is anticipated that more problems of this kind will confront the local sanitary authority.

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MILK.

1. Producers.

The County Sanitary Inspector took samples from the herds of producers. In no case were Tubercle Bacilli or Brucella organisms found by the Public Health Laboratory at Ipswich.

2. Dealers.

Five dealers were registered for the sale of specially designated milk. This means that specially designated milk was obtainable from every dealer in the town. During 1953 there was one dealer selling undesignated milk, but his business was sold to a firm who subsequently sold designated milk. From a public health point of view this was a welcome change.



## WATER.

### Main Water.

1. The main water supply was satisfactory in quality and quantity. Work continued on the conversion of the existing bore into a well.
2. In February, May, July, August and November, samples of mains water were submitted to the Public Health Laboratory, Ipswich. In every case, the findings were quite satisfactory and no action was necessary in respect of any form of contamination.
3. The water is not liable to have plumbo-solvent action.
4. The last chemical analyses in February and July 1952 stated that the water was of very good organic quality and free from any sign of dangerous pollution.

### Wells.

Sampling of the wells supplying the following properties showed the following results:-

	<u>Nitrate Nitrogen</u> <u>Parts per Million</u>	<u>Bacteriological</u> <u>Report</u>
East View, Abbey Road.	4	Satisfactory
The Homestead, Abbey Road.	69	Unsatisfactory
Fern Bank, Abbey Road.	36	Unsatisfactory
44 Grimsey Road.	49	Unsatisfactory
St. Andrews Cottages, Coldfair Green,		Unsatisfactory

Altogether 13 dwelling houses, previously supplied by well water were connected to the main water supply during 1953.



MEAT INSPECTION.

Carcases Inspected and Condemned.

	Cattle including cows.	Calves.	Pigs	Sheep and Lambs
Number Killed	1,139	116	2,108	2,390
Number inspected	1,139	116	2,108	2,390
All Diseases (except T.B.) whole carcasses condemned.	2	2	2	-
T.B. Only whole carcasses condemned.	7	-	1	-

The total weight of meat and offal condemned as being  
either diseased,unsound or unfit for human consumption was:-

<u>TONS</u>	<u>CWTS</u>	<u>QRS</u>	<u>LBS</u>
6	5	0	25



The following items of food were condemned during the year:-

Tinned Meat	22 tins	(32 lbs 3 ozg)
Tinned milk and cream.	51 tins	(67 lbs 11 ozs)
Preserves.	8 tins	(22 lbs )
Tinned fruit.	51 tins	(73 lbs 10 ozs)
Tinned vegetables.	11 tins	(15 lbs 9 ozs)
Tinned fish.	7 tins	(15 lbs 8 ozs)
(Together with other small quantities of untinned food. )		

#### The Ministry of Food Slaughterhouse.

Following the comments on the slaughterhouse in the Annual Report for 1952, the Public Health Committee visited the slaughterhouse. The congestion due to the centralisation of so much slaughtering in the one building was noted. As a result of representations to the Ministry of Food, a wash-basin with a constant supply of hot water was provided for the use of the slaughtering staff and the meat inspector.

#### Other Foods.

Shops and places where food was prepared, were inspected. This included premises used for the sale and manufacture of ice-cream.

Premises registered for the manufacture and sale of ice-cream	= 1
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Premises where pre-packed ice-cream is sold	= 11
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## HOUSING.

### Inspections.

Reports were submitted to the Public Health Committee on the following properties by the Sanitary Inspector:-

2 Upton Place, Leiston.  
25 Paradise Place, Leiston.  
79 Haylings Road, Leiston.  
16 Valley Road, Leiston.  
29 Paradise Place, Leiston.  
22 Roberts Road, Leiston.  
3 Paradise Place, Leiston.  
5 Dinsdale Road, Leiston.

### New Houses.

Local Authority                      39 Council Houses were completed.

Private Enterprise                  2 Houses were completed.

No Improvement Grants were made under the Housing Act 1949.

### Pail Closets.

Premises where there were pail closets had their night-soil collected by the Council. 113 Pail closets within the Urban District were dealt with and a service was provided for properties in the Parish of Knodishall in the Blyth Rural District.

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### Prevention of Damage by Pests Act.

The Refuse Tip, Sewage Works and Sewers received regular treatments for the destruction of rats. No serious infestations were found.

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## FACTORIES ACTS 1937 and 1948

The following details have been abstracted from the Annual Report of the Medical Officer submitted to the Ministry of Labour and National Service:-

### Part I of the Act.

#### 1. Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health.

Premises	Number on Register.	Number of		
		Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(i) Factories with Mechanical power.	6	8	-	-
(ii) Factories without mechanical power.	29	29	-	-
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority.	-	-	-	-
TOTAL:-	35	37	-	-

#### 2. Cases in which defects were found:-

NIL

Outworkers. As in previous years, one outworker, engaged in gloving, was registered.





